SANTA-BOCA PROVINCIAL PARK

PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN

March 2003

Approved by:

Date:

Dick Heath
Regional Manager
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date:

Nancy Wilkin
Assistant Deputy Minister
Environmental Stewardship Division

SANTA-BOCA PROVINCIAL PARK
Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan

Primary Role
The **primary** role of Santa-Boca Park is to provide marine-based recreation opportunities. The park is located on the southeastern tip of Nootka Island in Nootka Sound and secures two bays just north of Yuquot Village (Friendly Cove). There are two protected and scenic anchorages within Santa Gertrudis Cove and one that is suitable for smaller boats in Boca del Infierno Bay. The narrow entrance to Boca del Infierno Bay features a reversing tidal rapid. The park protects a coastal marine environment with beach shoreline, marine mammal habitat, old growth forest, and a number of sites which provide evidence of early native settlement. These features offer recreational opportunities such as cultural appreciation, boating, kayaking, sport fishing, walking, wildlife viewing and wilderness camping, but there are no facilities provided within the park. Limited amenities are available at nearby Yuquot including several cabins and campground accommodations.

Santa-Boca Park is one of a series of protected areas on the coast with anchorages in a natural setting. As such, it is a stopping point for those people who are exploring Nootka Sound or the west side of Vancouver Island by boat. Together with Bligh Island Marine Park, the park provides an opportunity to enjoy the Nootka Sound experience, which compares to Barclay, Clayoquot and Kyuquot sounds as an attractive recreational destination.

Secondary Role
The **secondary** role is to protect and preserve significant cultural heritage features. Nootka Sound has a colourful history with First Nations heritage and European exploration and settlement. The park is rich in First Nations archaeological sites and is adjacent to Yuquot village which was the site of the first formal contact between European explorers and First Nations. Such features add to the park's importance culturally and recreationally. Visitors can capture glimpses of the past and gain an understanding and appreciation of First Nation history and culture. The park also provides access to Friendly Cove, and has a historical trail that links Nootka to Yuquot, which is the terminus of the Nootka Island Trail, a popular multi-day backpack trail on the coast of the island.

Tertiary Role
The **tertiary** role is to protect the natural and special values associated with the temperate rainforest and the marine environment on the west coast of Vancouver Island. The special values includes a series of lakes on the west edge of the park.

Management Issues

Known Management Issue	Response
Lack of knowledge of cultural and natural values	➢ Complete a preliminary inventory of the marine and terrestrial wildlife in the park. ➢ Undertake Terrestrial Ecosystem Mapping to identify sensitive sites. ➢ Conduct a cultural inventory and traditional use study

	in conjunction with First Nations.
Impact of upland forest development, shellfish harvesting, sewage discharge, and heavy recreational use on natural and cultural values	➢ Implement BRIM at Santa Gertrudis Cove and Boca del Infierno Bay. ➢ Encourage DFO to establish the park as a "no dump zone". ➢ Work with DFO to ensure shellfish closure is enforced. ➢ Review forest harvesting plans with Ministry of Forests and forest companies for adjacent areas to assess their impact on park values.
Conflict between commercial and public tourism	➢ Ensure that all areas used for commercial purposes are known and recorded. ➢ Lead a strategic recreational planning process with private and public stakeholders to disperse recreational activities throughout Nootka Sound and to maintain the quality of the experience.
Lack of public awareness of the park and its values	➢ Need to mark clearly defined boundaries, and sign park boundaries adjacent to private holdings. ➢ Enhance interpretation information through website, and create a brochure on the area focused on cultural and natural values and appropriate behaviours (i.e. no dumping).
First Nation relationships	➢ Develop good working relationships with First Nations to gain an understanding and appreciation of protected area status and park values.

Zoning

Special Feature Zone – covers archaeological sites of cultural significance, which is an area that represents 181 hectares or approximately 41% of the park. The objective of this zone is to protect and present significant natural and cultural values because of their special character, fragility and heritage values. To protect the most sensitive features from disturbance, not all sites (regardless of importance) should be zoned and marked on maps as Special Features.

Natural Environment Zone – covers the rest of the park, which represents 259 hectares or 59% of the park. The objective of this zone is to protect scenic values while providing for shore-based recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment. It reflects the relatively low use of most areas of the park and the current recreation activities that are appropriate in this zone.

Conservation

Representation - ecosection	☒	Santa-Boca Park makes a minimal contribution of 0.2% to the representation of the Windward Island Mountains Ecosection (WIM), which is well represented in the protected areas system at 17.4%. It also makes a very minimal contribution of 0.09% to the overall representation of the Vancouver Island Shelf *Marine* Ecosection (VIS), which is poorly protected provincially at 5.4%.
- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant	☒	Santa-Boca Park makes a minimal contribution of 0.4% to the overall representation of CWHvh1, which is well represented in the protected areas system at 19.3%.
Special Features	☒	Reversing rapids; old growth; 2 bald eagle nests
Rare/Endangered Values	☒	Provincially red-listed and nationally threatened sea otter
Scientific/Research Opportunities	☐	None known at this time

Recreation

Representation backcountry	☐	Not Applicable
destination	☒	Part of Nootka Sound experience, fishing, safe anchorages; near the end of Nootka Island Trail
travel corridor	☒	Part of boating and sea kayaking route on the west coast of Vancouver Island
local recreation	☒	Sports fishing, boating
Special Opportunities	☒	Cultural interpretation, nature appreciation
Education/Interpretation Opportunities	☒	Natural and cultural values

Cultural Heritage

Representation	☒	Transition between pre-and post contact history; First Nation culture. Historical events: nearby Yuquot village was the site of first formal contact in British Columbia and was a Spanish trading post between 1789-1795. International sea otter fur trade in the 1800s.
Special Feature	☒	Archaeological sites; historic wagon trail from an old fish cannery (now a private Nootka fish camp) near Boca del Infierno Bay to Yuquot.

Pilot's house and boardwalk remnants, abandoned log skid and assorted machinery along the shoreline and in the Bay. Santa Gertrudis Cove named by Spanish in honour of their patron saint when they were laying claims to all land on the Pacific Coast, a dispute that ended with the Nootka Convention in 1792.

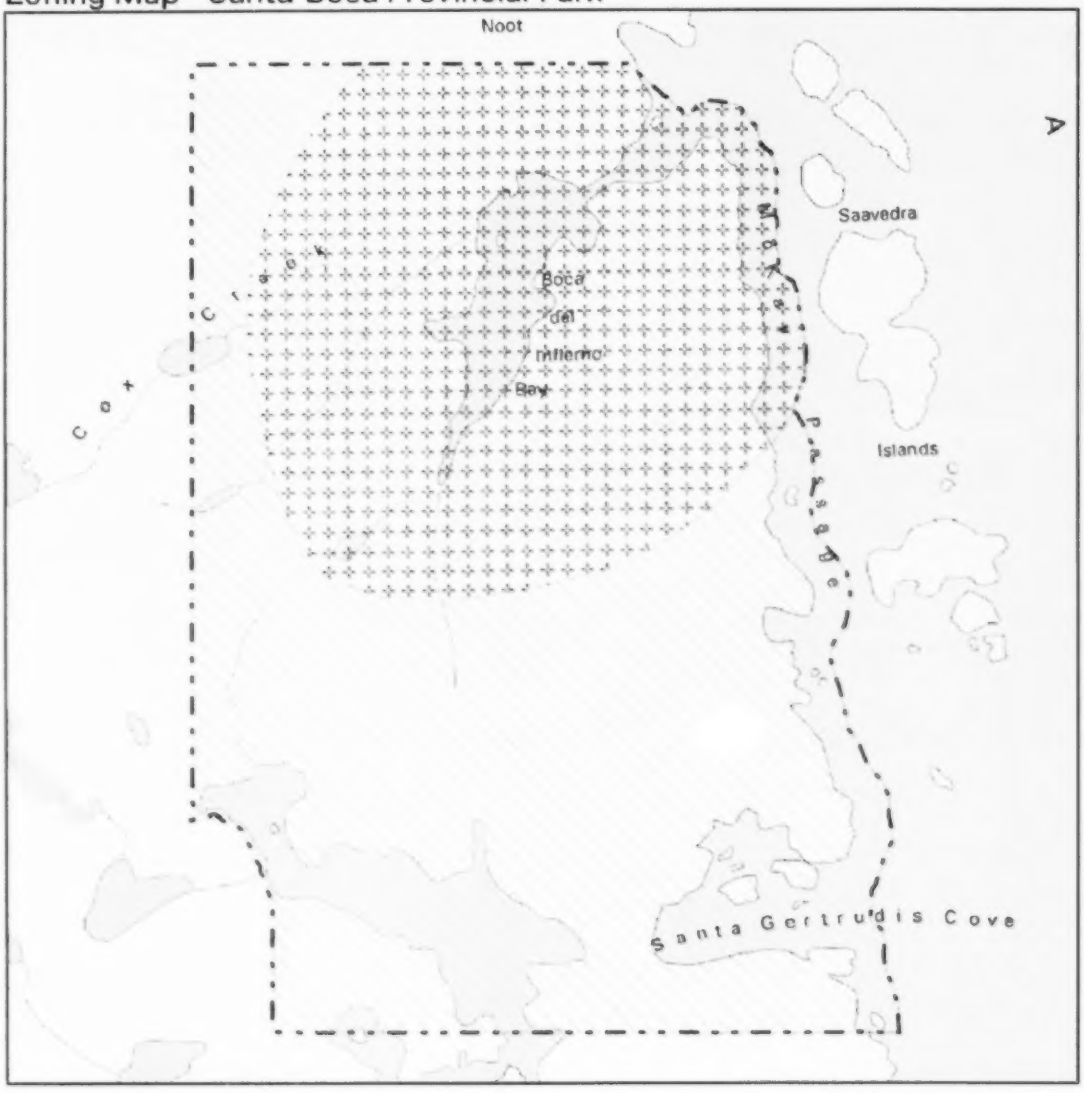
Other Management Considerations

Other Designations	☐	Not Applicable
Relationship to other PAs	☒	Part of a system of marine protected areas on the west coast of Vancouver Island; contributes to the Nootka Sound experience
Co-operative Management Arrangements	☒	Harvest of bivalve molluscs is prohibited seasonally (May 31 to September 30) due to high faecal coliform counts
Partnerships	☐	Not applicable
Vulnerability	☒	Natural values are at risk to sewage discharge, shellfish harvesting, oil spills, invasive species, upland forest development and recreation use. Cultural sites are sensitive to inappropriate recreational activities.
Relationship to other Strategies	☒	Designated as result of recommendations from the Vancouver Island Land Use Plan Goal 2 process, Marine Protected Area Strategy

Area: 440 hectares (357 hectares of upland; 83 hectares of foreshore)

Date of establishment: April 30, 1996

Zoning Map - Santa-Boca Provincial Park



Projection: Albers Equal Area
Datum: NAD83

Natural Environment
Special Feature
Protected Area Boundary

0 500
m

Produced in Apr 2003 for Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection by MSRM, Decision Support Services

This is a visual representation only and should not be used for legal purposes.